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ELEVEN MORE COUNTRIES MAKE STATEMENTS IN DEBATE ON RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

GENEVA, 22 February (UN Information Service) -- The Commission on Human Rights this afternoon heard the views of 11 more countries in the continuing debate on the right to self-determination and the application of this right to people under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation.

The speakers were Japan, German Democratic Republic, China, Mozambique, Togo, Syria, France, Italy, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Zimbabwe.

Statements Made

SADAKO OGATA (Japan) said her delegation was convinced that the right to self-determination must be achieved before human rights could be effectively guaranteed. The problem was central to the situation in southern Africa, as it also was to the situation in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

On Kampuchea, she said Japan reiterated its appeal to all parties concerned to respect the principles contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

On Afghanistan, she said the Soviet intervention had heightened tension, not only in South-West Asia but throughout the world. Attempts were being made to blame the prolonged fighting on interference from other countries, but the fact was that it was the Afghan people themselves who were fiercely opposing the Soviet military occupation and intervention in the affairs of their country.

Japan was resolute in its insistence that the Soviet Union end at once its intervention in Afghanistan and withdraw its troops immediately.

As to the Middle East, she said just, lasting and comprehensive peace could be achieved through the early and complete implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Any solution should also be based on the recognition of and respect for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination.

Japan regarded Israel's policy of establishing settlements in the occupied territories as an obstacle to the peace efforts. As the occupying

(more)

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MURADE ISAAC MURARGY (Mozambique) said, history had shown that there was a close link not only between the right to self-determination and international peace and security, but also between those two elements and the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In southern Africa, the racist Pretoria régime was denying the majority of the South African people their fundamental freedoms and persisted in its attempts to preserve the backward and inhuman system of apartheid. It was also intensifying its exploitation and plunder of the natural resources of Namibia.

In order to to preserve peace and security in the region, Mozambique and other front-line States had committed themselves to participate in the diplomatic exercise that led to the formulation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the front-line States had made concessions in the name of peace and in order to accelerate the process of the independence of Namibia. However, almost six years have passed, and Namibia still remained occupied illegally. The Commission should take a stand in calling for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 435 which constituted the legal basis for the independence of Namibia, he said.

On Western Sahara, he said the right to self-determination and independence was being denied. He called on Morocco to comply with the spirit and the letter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) call.

On East Timor, he said Mozambique unequivocally supported the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination. It hoped the deferment of the East Timor question at the last General Assembly session would create the necessary climate for the re-establishment of the cease-fire and dialogue.

In the Middle East, the Zionist régime of Israel was the only obstacle to peace and security. The key to the solution was the recognition of Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including the right to establish their own state.

The right to self-determination also meant the right of a people to dispose of its natural resources and to determine freely its own way of development. South Africa was denying to the peoples of southern Africa such a right. The régime also attempted to weaken the already fragile economy of its neighbours.

The elimination of racism, apartheid, colonialism, neo-colonialism and zionism was a historical imperative without which co-operation among peoples of the world could not be developed.

KOFFI ADJOYI (Togo) said, in contravention to the provisions of the United Nations Charter, everywhere, States were using naked power to subjugate others. That situation prevailed, for example, in the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

repulse the invading forces of a powerful neighbour. The situation existing in East Timor could hardly be said to be consistent with the Indonesian claim that that Territory had voluntarily opted for integration with Indonesia. The people of East Timor were demanding justice and the Commission should help them. It could not allow that issue "to dwindle to a footnote in the decolonization efforts of the United Nations".

The situations in Afghanistan and Kampuchea were also cause for concern, and Zimbabwe called for the withdrawal of foreign troops and urged for more intensified efforts to break the stalemate in both countries.

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